



**American Transmission Company (ATC) Meeting
Friday, October 22, 2004, 9:00 a.m.**

People in attendance

Scott Barnhart, ATC, Manager, Transmission Planning
Andy Eberhardt, ATC, Real Estate and ROW Representative
Donald J. Morrow, ATC, Director, Planning
Stephen Parker, P.E., ATC, Manager, State Regulatory Affairs
Harry L. Terhune, P.E., ATC, Vice President, Operations
Casey Newman, WisDOT Bureau of Planning
Jonquil Johnston, WisDOT Bureau of Planning

1. Overview of long-range plan by WisDOT staff: The meeting began at 9:00. Casey Newman gave an overview of WisDOT's upcoming long-range transportation plan, *Connections 2030* (C2030). WisDOT is currently seeking input on transportation planning issues from stakeholder groups and larger Wisconsin cities. Plan alternatives should be available for public comment in July of 2005. The plan is scheduled to be completed in 2006.
2. Gathering of input from the American Transmission Company (ATC) staff: Discussion focused on the following issues:
 - a. Cooperation

ATC staff referred to 2003 Wisconsin Act 89 (Act 89), which outlined priorities for considering routes for new transmission lines. This act requires consideration of highway and railroad corridors for transmission lines, as well as existing utility corridors, recreational trails, and new corridors.

ATC stated they would like to see more coordination and planning for the siting of utility lines between government and utility companies. They noted their interest in scheduling meetings between WisDOT planners and ATC planners.

The state comprehensive planning legislation requirements, specifically the utilities and community facilities requirements, were discussed.
 - b. Relationship of the State Budget to Connections 2030

ATC staff asked how the state budget would impact the long-range plan. WisDOT responded the two are separate activities; the budget is short term and Connections 2030 is long term. Connections 2030 is more likely to impact future budget cycles. However, the next state budget could impact Connections 2030 if there is a dramatic shift in investment strategy.

c. Population Projections

ATC staff asked where WisDOT gets the population projections and other data that will be used in the long-range plan. The Department of Administration official population projections are used and WisDOT also acquires special U.S. Census packages that include figures for specific household and transportation data. In addition, WisDOT purchases freight data and uses Department of Revenue data for industrial and commercial projections and parcel conversions. WisDOT also has in-house data generated from the Economic Development Section in the Bureau of Planning.

d. Tracking Transportation Technologies

ATC staff asked how WisDOT tracks future technology that may impact the transportation system. WisDOT is involved in several initiatives to explore alternative revenue sources as fuel sources evolve. The issue of new and future transportation technologies likely will be included in the long-range plan from a general policy perspective.

e. Use of Right-of-Way

ATC staff asked if the long-range plan would address the use of right-of-way (ROW). It is uncertain the long-range plan will include a discussion of joint uses for ROW, however, given the passage of ACT 89, it is a possibility.

f. ROW Issues

ATC staff stated it is challenging to attain ROW. They advocate railroad corridor preservation for future use of the ROW for utilities. They stated their support to share with other entities the cost of such purchases and/or easements. ATC has an interest in collaborating with WisDOT for ROW corridor sharing. ATC would like to see more joint planning and data sharing.

g. Corridors 2020

ATC asked for clarification between past plans such as Corridors 2020 and the current long-range plan, Connections 2030. Corridors 2020 was a plan driven by Wisconsin's economic development initiatives and created a state framework for a backbone highway system. Connections 2030 is an all-mode long range planning done in part due to federal planning requirements.

h. Construction Timelines

ATC asked about timeframes for construction and reconstruction projects from conception to completion. WisDOT responded that such timelines are subject to many variables, such as the type of project and geographic location. WisDOT noted that corridor management efforts help with the timing of projects. ATC stated they would benefit from knowing if ROW corridors will be further widened so that they may acquire ROW without having to relocate the infrastructure.

i. Trans 233

ATC stated their support for the provisions of Trans 233.

j. ATC Long-Range Planning

ATC engages in long-range planning. ATC staff distributed copies of their 10-year Transmission System Assessment. Due to the changing nature of their business the assessment (titled “The Vital Link”) is updated every 6 months. ATC is in the process of, or planning to, build several new high voltage power transmission lines in Wisconsin and is also investigating the feasibility of constructing an interstate transmission line to Iowa, Minnesota, or Illinois. They noted the Public Service Commission’s Strategic Energy Assessment, which provides an action plan for Wisconsin energy needs is also a source for utility infrastructure information.

The ATC assessment report can be found at:

www.atcllc.com/planning_10year.shtml